STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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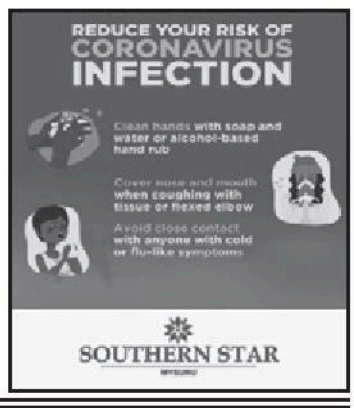

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Coronavirus hits MCC Property Tax collection

The deserted MCC Zone 4 Office in Yadavagiri.

- All Zonal Offices closed due to lockdown; no revenue generation since Mar. 25
- No five percent rebate and no online tax payment facility until further notice

Mysuru, Apr.5 (RK,DM&BCT)- Amidst reports that India's real estate market will see a significant price correction — prices may come down by 10 percent to 30 percent — for the first time in a decade as the Coronavirus pandemic stalls businesses across the country, the killer virus has affected Property Tax Collection in Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

The Civic Body is unable to collect Property Tax as physical tax collection counters at various MCC Zonal Offices in city have been closed due to COVID-19 scare and the lockdown. Even the online collection has been hampered as the MCC is yet to get Government green signal.

We are in the month of April and the MCC is yet to launch its usual 5 percent rebate to property owners who pay their yearly Property Tax in full in the month of April. In the previous years, the MCC used to offer 5 percent rebate during the month of April to all property owners who want to pay their yearly tax. This year, the MCC had also promised that it will introduce online Property Tax payment system to enable property owners to pay tax from the comforts of their homes. But this ambitious scheme too is yet to take off.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, MCC Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Kumar Nayak said that the MCC Commissioner wrote a letter to the Government on Mar. 27 seeking permission to introduce online tax payment system and the 5 percent tax rebate. But the MCC is yet to get a reply from the Government in this regard, with the entire State coming to a standstill following the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, he said.

"We have not been able to collect any revenue through any of our means since Mar.25 because of the lockdown. We had expected revenue of Rs.60 crore in April this year through collection of Property Tax, as most property owners of the city prefer to make use of the 5 percent rebate. But now, all expectations have gone for a toss and we are hoping to generate revenues once the lockdown ends," he said.

No tax rebate until further notice: Asserting that there will be no 5 percent property tax rebate and no online tax payment facility until further notice, Kumar Nayak said that the public need not go the Zonal Offices for payment of Property Tax, as all of them have been shut due to the lockdown.

No shortage of essential items at super markets, shops

Public need not panic as there is uninterrupted supply of fresh stocks

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (MTY&KS)- Be it Big Bazaar, Easyday, Loyal World, More or A to Z, all super markets and neighbourhood *Kirana* shops in city, all have adequate stocks of essential commodities and Mysureans need not get worked up and resort to panic-buying. Fresh stocks are arriving at these super markets and shops every other day.

Following reports in a section of media that stocks such as rice, wheat, flour, sugar, cooking oil, fruits, vegetables and other essential commodities were out of stock at super markets, *Star of Mysore* received numerous calls. We did a reality check this morning which revealed that almost all super markets in city had sufficient stocks.

Speaking to *SOM*, Big Bazaar Administrative Officer M.M. Subramanya and Marketing Head Ravichandra said that all essential commodities are adequate in stock and only packed items are sold like 500 grams, 1 kg and 5 kg instead of small-quantity items.

(See SHOPS on page 5)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Sunday 5th April 2020

Donald Trump requests PM Modi to release Anti-Malarial Drug

Washington, Apr. 5- US President Donald Trump on Saturday said that he has requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to supply hydroxychloroquine tablets that can be used to treat COVID-19 patients.

"After call today with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is giving serious consideration to releasing the hold it put on a US order for hydroxychloroquine," US President Trump announced at the White House Coronavirus task force briefing that he requested PM Narendra Modi for more Hydroxychloroquine tablets.

President Trump did not shy away from saying he too will take a tablet of hydroxychloroquine after announcing that he has requested Prime Minister during his telephonic conversation on Saturday to lift a hold on the US order of the medicine.

"I may take it too, will have to talk to my doctors," he added.

"India makes a lot of it. They need a lot too for their billion-plus people. The hydroxychloroquine, the anti-malaria drug will be released through the Strategic National Stockpile for treatment," he said.

Narendra Modi *Donald Trump*

"I said I would appreciate if they would release the amounts that we ordered" of hydroxychloroquine, he said.

The Indian Government has put on hold the export of anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine and its formulations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Twitter, "Had an extensive telephone conversation with President @realDonaldTrump. We had a good discussion, and agreed to deploy the full strength of the India-US partnership to fight COVID-19."

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

Every day, across the country, thousands of cases of robbery are reported but the authorities seem powerless to stop them. These robberies are not called robberies; they are called health insurance policies. I've just been robbed of Rs. 76,800 by my health insurance company of the past 30 years and which has earned many lakhs of rupees from me by way of annual premiums. I had two skin growths, one in an armpit and the other on my chest, which, though not painful, had grown abnormally. The doctor diagnosed them as being 'Melanotic lesions' which were potentially cancerous and required immediate surgery. I underwent a surgical procedure — which involved general anaesthesia, the removal of bodily tissue, and the administration of post-operational stitches — in a private hospital in Gurgaon.

When my claim for Rs. 76,800 was submitted by the hospital it was disallowed. Why? Because the insurance company — the name of which translates from the English into Hindi as Naya Bharat — claimed that the 'Melanotic lesions' were 'moles', and their removal was cosmetic surgery, for which the company was not liable to pay.

Cosmetic surgery? Performed in my armpit and chest, areas of my anatomy not generally exposed to public gaze? The Government should put a mandatory warning on all health insurance policies: This health insurance policy might be injurious to your financial health.

—Jug Suraiya in The Times of India

NEWS SPARKLERS

Mysterious sinkhole causes waterfall to disappear overnight

Ecuador: The San Rafael Waterfall, one of Ecuador's most popular tourist attraction has disappeared after a mysterious sinkhole diverted the gushing Coca River into three small streams. As part of the Cayambe Coca National Park, in the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, the San Rafael Waterfall reportedly attracted tens of thousands of tourists every year. That's all in the past, though, as the impressive 150-meter-high waterfall all but stopped flowing on February 2nd, after a mysterious sinkhole formed on the river fueling it, diverting the water into three small streams. All tourism to the site has been closed and the waterfall is off on website anymore.

'Class of Life' has school children eat fish they raise

Tokyo: Japan's 'Class of Life' is a controversial school project that aims to teach students about valuing their food and the environment by having them raise and then eat animals like fish and chicken. The Class of Life has been a part of Japanese curriculum at certain schools for over six decades, so most Japanese people are familiar with it, but even they were stunned recently when they saw elementary school children taking part in the class.

But the part that really struck the viewers was the decision to force all students to eat the fish. Most of them agreed to do it, so the rest were forced. This decision led to some heartbreaking scenes, like children struggling to eat the fish with tears flowing down their faces.

The Class of Life was featured a couple of years ago, when a video at an agricultural high-school in Japan's Shimano Prefecture went viral leaving most viewers in a state of shock. The footage showed students preparing chicken eggs for hatching, raising the chicks for several months, and finally killing, cooking and eating the chicken.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

Are there any fruits that are native to America?

Cranberries, Blueberries and Concord Grapes are among the few cultivated fruits that are native to America. As early as 1550, native Americans used Cranberries for food, medicine and fabric dye.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

On PM's COVID-19 Appeal...

India to turn off lights for 9 minutes at 9 tonight

New Delhi, Apr. 5- Eleven days into a total lockdown to control spread of COVID-19, India will turn off lights for nine minutes at 9 pm today (Apr. 5) after Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on Friday morning and gave a call for unity to "fight the darkness of Coronavirus pandemic."

In a video message, PM Modi made an appeal to the nation: "On April 5, Sunday, at 9 pm, I want 9 minutes from all of you. Turn off all the lights in your homes, stand at your doors or balconies and light candles, diya (lamp) or mobile flashlights for 9 minutes."

"No one is alone during the lockdown, the collective superpower of 130 crore Indians is with every citizen," he said.

This was his third address to the nation on Coronavirus that has been spreading fast across the world and has infected over a million people, killed over 50,000. In India, the COVID-19 count has crossed the 3,000-mark on Saturday, with the number of deaths rising to 77.

Only lights should be switched off

On Saturday, as the State Electricity Boards expressed concern that sudden mass power fluctuations — when millions turn off light at the same time — could lead to power surges, Union Power Ministry issued a statement to allay fears.

There is no call to switch off street lights, computers or appliances such as TV sets, fans, refrigerators and air-conditioners in the homes, the Government said. "Only lights should be switched off. The lights in hospitals and all other essential services like public utilities, municipal services, offices, police stations, manufacturing facilities, etc. will remain on..." the statement read.

Several State Power Boards have asked their workers to be on stand-by on Sunday evening with necessary back-up to handle the adverse impact, if any, during or after the voluntary blackout.

Really...?

- *Honeybees are the only insects that create a form of food for humans.*
- *The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards.*
- *The only bird that can swim and not fly is a penguin.*
- *A duck can't walk without bobbing its head.*
- *Beavers were once the size of bears.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

A family of mice were surprised by a big cat. Father Mouse jumped and said, *"Bow-wow!"*
The cat ran away.
"What was that, Father?" ***asked Baby Mouse.***
"Well, son, that's why it's important to learn a second language."

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 76.42
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 93.77
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.81
1 Euro	= Rs. 82.57

VOICE OF THE READER

Hubballi-Ankola Rail Project:
An Environmental Disaster

Sir,

National newspapers of 22nd March 2020 have announced that our Chief Minister has approved Hubballi-Ankola Rail Project mainly under pressure from politicians of North Karnataka. Do Railways have approval of the Ministry of Environment for this project? I doubt it. It goes without saying that the railline will result in cutting lakhs of trees across the Western Ghats.

The Western Ghats run more or less in a North-South direction parallel to the coast line throughout the Southern Indian Peninsula. These Ghats separate the narrow strip of plain land along the west coast and the large plateau of Southern India. The Ghats have an average height of over 1,000 meters with a maximum height of about 2,700 meters at Palani Hills. Naturally, the new Railway line will have to negotiate Western Ghats.

At present, there are already six Railway lines across Western Ghats. These are:

1. Along Mumbai-Nagpur route between Igatpuri and Deolali.

2. Along Mumbai-Pune route between Karjat and Lonavala.

3. Along Marmagoa-Dharwar route between a Station close to Londa and Ponda.

4. Along Mangalore-Bangalore route between a Station close to Sakleshpur and Shiradi.

5. Along Mangalore-Kozhikode-Chennai route between Shornoor and Podanur.

6. Along Kollam-Tuticorin route between Punalur and Tenkasi.

All along Western Ghats, there are very thick forests and the existence of this foliage helps in the adequate rainfall not only along the coastal strip but also for the entire Southern Indian Peninsula. These seasonal heavy rains are absolutely essential for cultivating paddy and other food grains. Agriculture is the main source of income for a large percentage of people. Building of another Railway line involves a lot of deforestation which will have a detrimental effect on the rainfall.

Last year, because of the strong lobby of the people of Malabar region, Kerala Government pressurised Railways to build a rail line through thick forest areas of Western Ghats from Talassery to Kushalnagar. At that time there was a very strong protest from the people of Kodagu and the matter was postponed for the time being.

Similarly, let saner sense prevail and put an end to this new Rail Project. Existing roads and nearby rail lines should be adequate for the local people.

—U.B. Acharya
Jayalakshmipuram
22.3.2020

COVID-19: City Top Cop asks public to save themselves

Dr. Chandragupta

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (RK&DM)- Asking the citizens to save themselves from COVID-19 rather than looking at ways from escaping Police, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta said that it was important to follow the lockdown regulations when the country was battling in full might against the deadly pandemic.

Speaking to *SOM,* Dr. Chandragupta said that it was important for the people to understand the purpose behind the implementation of the nationwide lockdown.

Noting that it was improper for the citizens to unnecessarily come out on to the streets, he said that the people must not fear the Police and instead try to save themselves from becoming victims of the deadly virus, by remaining indoors.

Maintaining that it is not the intention of the Police to inconvenience the public by collecting fines and seizure of vehicles, the City Top Cop said that the Police were working round the clock to ensure that people stay safe in the confinement of their homes during the lockdown period.

Reiterating his appeal to the public to follow lockdown protocol, he said that the people must understand that the Police are engaged in safeguarding the Health and safety of citizens by discharging their duties.

Creating awareness among staff

SWR Mysuru Divisional Railway Manager takes stock of situation

Mysuru, Apr. 5- Aparna Garg, Divisional Railway Manager, South Western Railway (SWR), Mysuru, inspected the nearly 270-km stretch of Section from Mysuru-Arsikere-Chikjajur on Friday accompanied by senior officials of Operations, Civil Engineering, Mechanical, Electrical and Medical Departments of the Division.

She again reminded the core team that the priority of the Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) was safety and as such protocols prescribed for maintenance of critical assets of the Railways like tracks, signal and telecommunication equipment and rolling stock should be in a sense 'fail-safe'.

Garg once again emphasised the fact that the safety in train operations can never be taken lightly in view of the enormous responsibility the organisation has in this critical phase as the country was battling the scourge of Coronavirus. Whether it was transportation of essential commodities across our vast network or conversion of passenger coaches as Isolation Wards to treat Covid-19 patients, we need to accomplish the tasks assigned to us flawlessly, she said.

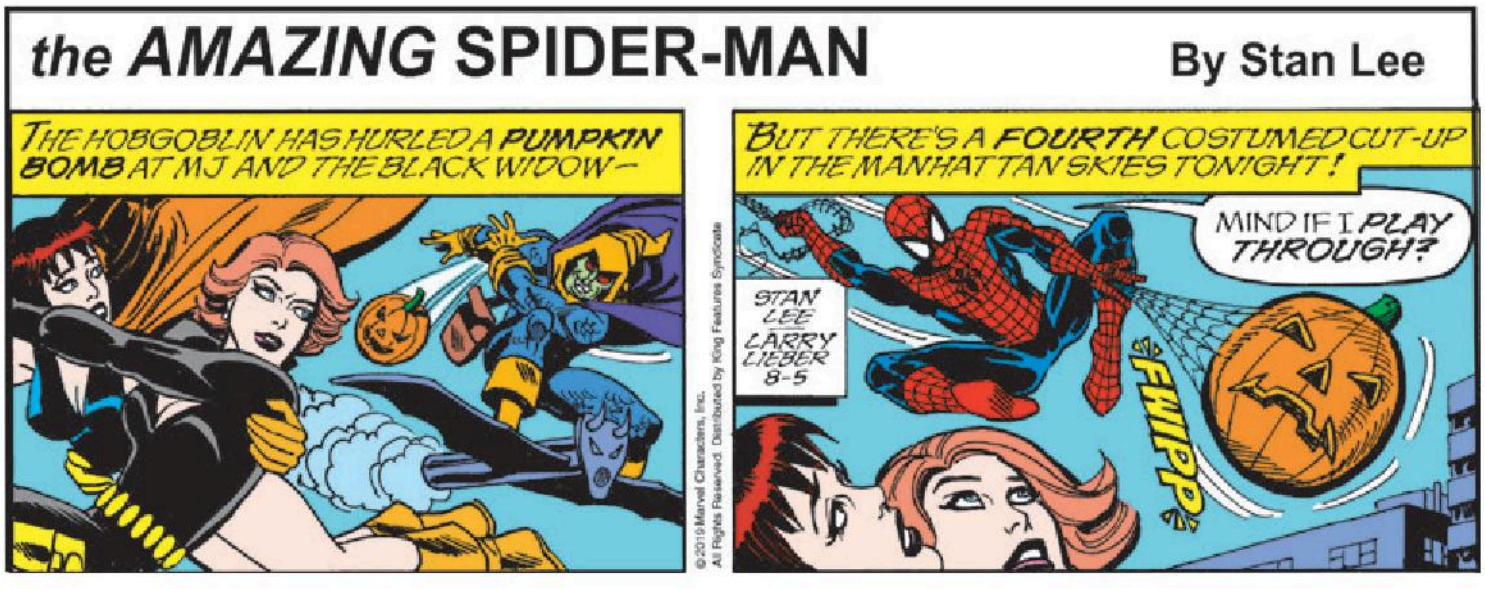
Time is of the essence in these testing times and as such we can ill-afford even a minor hiccup in our operational efficiency, she observed. She called everyone connected with train operations — from trackmen to Station Masters-Loco Pilots — to be always vigil and work as per rule book protocols and never resort to short cut methods which could endanger the safety of trains.

Besides inspecting four Stations, Garg also interacted with trackmen and keymen in the five gangs in the midsection to get a first hand information on genuine staff grievances and the assistance they required from the administration.

She also underlined the need for everyone to meet the prevailing health emergency upfront. As containing spread of the virus was very vital, casual approach should be shunned by one and all. She reiterated the importance of staff to strictly follow the comprehensive guidelines issued by the Health Ministry for maintaining personal hygiene and social distancing in work places.

She instructed the Branch Officers to ensure that there were no slippages in providing adequate number of protective masks, hand sanitisers, etc. to field staff. The Doctor in the inspection team gave a demonstration on coughing and sneezing etiquette to staff as an important preventive measure.

The DRM also met with family members of staff in the Railway Colony at Shivani and asked them to keep the area around them neat and tidy. She also enquired about the availability of groceries, vegetables, drinking water etc. and instructed the supervisors to keep a watch on this situation so that timely action could be initiated in emergencies, according to a press release from Priya Shetty, Divisional Commercial Manager and PRO.


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
By Stan Lee
THE HOBGOBLIN HAS HURLED A PUMPKIN BOMB AT MJ AND THE BLACK WIDOW—
BUT THERE'S A FOURTH COSTUMED CUT-UP IN THE MANHATTAN SKIES TONIGHT!
MIND IF I PLAY THROUGH?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-5
FWIPP!
©2019 Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Distributed by King Features SyndiCate

Mutton merchants still sell meat for Rs. 600 per kg

Mysuru, Apr. 5(RKB&DM)- With the district authorities permitting mutton and chicken shops to open three days a week (Tuesday, Friday and Sunday), almost all mutton and chicken shops in city witnessed a huge rush with meat lovers thronging mutton shops since early morning today.

While most shops ensured that customers maintained social distancing, the Police had to do the job in some shops where there were complaints of violation.

There was heavy rush at all mutton stalls in K.G. Koppal, which is said to have the most number of meat shops other than the mutton market in city and sellers had a hard time in managing the customers, with queues growing by the hour.

Although the authorities have capped the mutton price at Rs. 500 a kg, some shops were found selling at Rs. 600 to Rs. 650 a kg. The police and the authorities upon coming to know of it, visited the shops for a check, when the shop owners expressed their plight that the purchase cost of mutton was high and as such they cannot sell at the stipulated price (Rs. 500). But as the officials insisted on maintaining the capped price, some mutton sellers abruptly shut down their shops, citing losses, it is learnt.

Meanwhile, chicken shops too are doing a roaring business today with people thronging them since early morning. However, the shop owners were seen ensuring that social distancing was maintained by customers.The price of broiler chicken in most shops was found to be Rs.150 a kg today. It may be recalled that the price of chicken meat had nosedived to less than Rs.100 a kg just a month ago following Bird Flu scare, which had led the authorities to order a ban on sale of chicken meat. Chicken shops re-opened only last week after the ban was revoked by the authorities.

Babu Jagjivan Ram's birth anniversary celebrated

The 113th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram was celebrated in a simple manner by the District Administration in city by offering floral tributes to the statue of Babu Jagjivan Ram opposite at City Railway Station Circle this morning. Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta, Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth, Assistant Commissioner Venkataraju, Deputy Mayor C. Sridhar and others were present on the occasion.

Informed citizens demand stipulation of fixed time to purchase essential commodities

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (MK&DM)- Even as the city is yet to witness a scenario of a complete lockdown, with people seen coming on to the streets to buy essential commodities, several informed citizens have urged the authorities to stipulate a time period for the purchase of essential items like groceries and vegetables.

Some citizens have complained that there were rampant lockdown regulations with people often coming out of their homes under the pretext of buying groceries, vegetables, medicines and other essential items, in violation of the lockdown protocol.

Pointing out that Mysuru stands second in respect of the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the State, they urged the authorities to fix a time period for purchase of essential items.

Maintaining that lockdown violations are more rampant in areas such as Udayagiri, Rajivnagar, Shantinagar, Gayatripuram, Ghousianagar, Kyathamaranahalli, Raghavendranagar, Kuvempunagar, Sharadadevinagar, Indiranagar (Ittigegud), Saraswathipuram, Manandavadi Road etc., they expressed concern that public movement on roads may enhance the chances of the spread of the deadly Coronavirus.

Noting that in neighbouring Kodagu district, where only a single Corona positive case has been reported, grocery shops are allowed to open between 6 am and 12 noon only thrice a week, they said such a move has largely helped Kodagu District Administration to see that people do not come out of their homes. The Mysuru District Administration too stipulate a time frame for opening of grocery and vegetable stores, they said.

They also alleged that despite the lockdown, many push-cart vendors are seen moving on the streets doing business, which is of serious concern at a time when the Administration is focussing on maintaining social distancing among people.

Meanwhile Basheeer Ahmed, a Corporator from a Ward in NR Assembly segment, said that people seem to have given a go by to the lockdown regulations, as many people are seen on the streets.

Repeated appeals to the public to stay indoors and be safe, have gone in vain with people caring little for their health.

With the effectiveness of lockdown under question in the Constituency, he has appealed the authorities to stipulate a time period for opening of grocery shops, he pointed out.

Postal services resume in city

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (PM&DM)- The Postal services, which were suspended for a week following the lockdown, has resumed from April 1.

Subsequent to the announcement of the nationwide lockdown, all Postal services were suspended from Mar.25 to 31. But now basic Postal services like social security pension schemes, RD Deposits, Western Union Money Order, delivery of posts, Booking of Registered and Speed Posts etc., have resumed at the Head Post Office on Ashoka Road and all other Post offices in city and district.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Senior Post Master at the Head Post Office S. Siddaraju said that basic services have resumed from Apr.1 after a week-long shut down due to nationwide lockdown.

The staff are ensuring that beneficiaries of schemes and other citizens maintain a social distance at the counters while availing the service. Also, all the staff have been asked to wear face masks and use hand sanitisers.

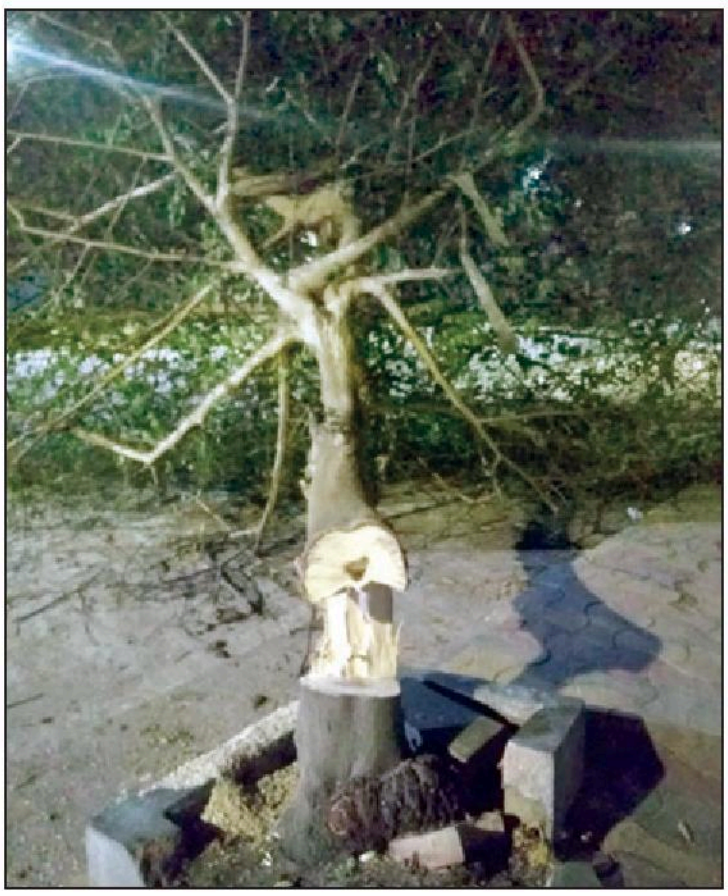
Besides this, hand sanitisers are kept at the entrance of the Post Office for use by customers, he said and added that the Department has taken measures to ensure that social distancing is maintained at the counters.

Senior Postal Superintendent Sadananda said that basic services have resumed since April 1.

The Postal services are available between 10 am and 2 pm on all working days, he said and added that, however, full-scale Postal services are unlikely to resume shortly in view of the lockdown.

Myth of bats spreading Coronavirus: Two trees chopped off in city

Myth-buster posters clear misconceptions that bats, pet animals spread Coronavirus



MYTH BUSTERS: COVID-19
CATS AND DOGS ARE NOT KNOWN TO SPREAD COVID-19.
CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PETS AND DO NOT ABANDON THEM OUT OF FEAR.

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (BCT)- A series of 'Myth-Busters: COVID-19' posters is doing rounds in social media spreading awareness and myths about pet dogs, cats and bats. This comes in the wake of misinformation being spread that bats, dogs and cats could spread Coronavirus.

Also, trees that are populated by bats are being chopped off. Falling for the misinformation campaign, pet owners are abandoning their pets in some cases.

These beautifully designed posters convey messages like 'Cats and dogs are not known to spread COVID-19, take care of your pets and do not abandon them,' 'Killing bats does not stop the spread of COVID-19, don't disturb bat population.' The messages are widely circulated in social media and have been designed in various languages including Hindi, Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Bengali, Spanish, Portuguese, French, German, Italian and Dutch.

Two trees felled on Ramanuja Road

A misinformation campaign that bats could spread Novel Coronavirus led to felling of two fruit-bearing trees on Ramanuja Road at Agrahara in Mysuru. The incident occurred last Wednesday and the two Singapore Cherry Trees were a haven for fruit-eating bats. This chopping of trees based on rumours has upset environmentalists who have brought the issue to the notice of the Forest Department that has asked the field staff not to permit chopping of trees on such grounds.

Greens upset

"As it is, Mysuru is facing a severe shortage of fruit-bearing trees. Earlier, the city was planned in such a way that humans and nature could live in harmony co-existing with animals and birds. But in the name of development and such baseless theories, trees are being chopped. Today they have cut two trees on Ramanuja Road. Tomorrow, it might be in the surroundings of Kukkarahalli Lake," said S. Shylajesha, an environmental activist.

He said the Singapore Cherry Trees had a good canopy and fruit-eating bats used to frequent and roost there to forage on the cherries. "Earlier, a lot of localities in Mysuru had such fruit-bearing trees and bats used to feed on fruits and some were insectivorous that feed on insects and mosquitoes. If we go on chopping such trees falling prey to misinformation and myths, where is the principle of co-existence," asked D.H. Tanuja, another green activist and an avid bird-watcher in city.

In the absence of such trees, bats and birds are forced to fly to the border areas. An imbalance in nature is created by such acts and we are forced to use chemicals to destroy pests and mosquitoes in the absence of bats and birds. "It is very unfortunate that trees are cut just because of rumours," she added.

Immune system of bats

Zoologist Pradeep Mohan, veterinarian Dr. Manohar Upadhya and Dr. Abhijith A.P.C. who have conducted extensive research on bats have clarified that it is true that bats are carriers of lots of viruses but they do not transmit them to human beings easily.

Viruses that are extremely similar to the one that causes COVID-19 have been seen in Chinese Horseshoe Bats. When a bat is stressed — by being hunted, or having its habitat damaged by deforestation — its immune system is challenged and finds it harder to cope with pathogens that are present inside its body. This causes infections to increase and the bats excrete the viruses. This is their way of keeping their bodies safe.

What happened in Wuhan?

In the epicentre of the Coronavirus — the wet-markets of Wuhan, China — where wild animals, dogs, bats, pangolins, turtles and snakes are held captive together and sold as delicacies, a terrifying mix of viruses and species have occurred and the humans with close proximity have been infected, they explained.

The stressed out bats have infected another animals at the market and in turn, infecting humans. Researchers have suggested the bats could have infected a snake, a turtle or a pangolin, they reasoned.

"Trees should not be felled merely because they attract bats. There are 13 species of commonly found bats in Mysuru and a majority of them are fruit-eating bats. Going by the same logic, one has to axe all the fruit-bearing trees as well across the city. Should we chop off our heads if we have a headache," they questioned.

No shortage of essential items at super markets, shops

(Continued from page 1)

They said that grocery items such as rice, wheat flour, sugar and other such items which were earlier sold in loose is now being sold in packets weighing 500 grams, 1 kg, 3 kg, 5 kg and above to avoid people touching the items directly.

Subramanya and Ravichandra said that essential commodities are being delivered free of cost to houses within the Outer Ring Road limits and added that once customers send their list and make payments online, the products would be delivered at their doorsteps.

Sources at More market told *SOM* that there are sufficient stocks of rice, cooking oil, sugar, salt, dal, soaps and other items and added that fresh stocks of essential items are arriving once in two days from Bengaluru godowns.

They said that if sunflower oil of a particular brand is not available, customers can choose the same oil of another brand and added that even stocks of bread, bun, milk, fruits and vegetables and even skin creams are sufficient to meet the needs.

Messages are also being sent to customers when fresh supplies arrive, they said and added that there are, however, no stocks of Nandini Ghee, home decor items, clothing and electronic items.

They said that customers are urged to use hand sanitisers and wear face masks while making purchases and also maintain social distancing at the stores. Announcements requesting customers to make quick purchases and leave the store as soon as possible are being made. Only one member from a family is allowed to enter and make purchases while others stay outside.

'MYSORE MEMORIES'

On Vani Vilas Club

By Girija Madhavan

An old memory came back to me recently after seeing a vintage black and white clip on TV about women tennis players. In 1960 I was visiting my parents in Mysore after a year abroad in Burma [Myanmar] where my husband, **A. Madhavan,** was posted in the Indian Embassy.

Our Ambassador's residence in Rangoon [now Yangon] had a very good tennis court. My mother, **Mukta Venkatesh,** decided that I should learn tennis during this vacation so as to play on that court when I returned.

Mysore retained its old graces but had some limitations. Tennis lessons for women were not easy to find. My mother remembered that in the late 1920s and early 1930s she had been an active member of the Vani Vilas Ladies' Club in Nazarbad. She somehow managed to get me enrolled there for lessons.

The Vani Vilas Club for women [both European and Indian], was started by **Maharani Kempananjammanniavaru** [1866-1934]. She was given the title of "Maharani Vani Vilasa Sannidhana" on her marriage at the age of twelve to Chamarajendra Wadiyar, aged 15, who was the Maharaja of Mysore. She was the educated daughter of Narasaraje Urs from an aristocratic family in Maddur.

Tragically her husband died of diphtheria on a visit to Kolkata at the age of 31 in 1894. She was left with her ten-year-old son, Krishnarajendra Wadiyar, who was

Maharani Kempananjammanniavaru

the heir to the throne, and several smaller children to look after.

She was appointed by the British as Regent to the heir until he attained majority. She governed the State with competence and conscientiousness, helped by the Dewan and advisors; promoting women's welfare and establishing hospitals.

Later, when the Old Palace burned down, she commissioned the British architect, **Henry Irving,** to rebuild it. A magnificent new building was created, an icon of Karnataka to this day.

Mukta had happy recollections of her visits to the Vani Vilas Club. She recalled spacious rooms with fine furniture. It was set in a large garden and the privacy of the members was strictly maintained as some Ursu ladies maintained "purdah." The Maharani would herself visit the Club. Mukta was one member who dared to agree to play chess with her on several occasions. She said later that she could not "checkmate the Queen"!

Mukta's abilities as a painter were appreciated by the members. A royal visitor from North India was feted with gifts and mementos at an event in the Dasara Exhibition where Club members participated. A decorated sandalwood plaque was produced for her to sign her name and the date with a fountain pen. She did so with a flourish but dated the month "Octumber."

The ladies hid their dismay but later appealed to Mukta for help. The ink had already spread along the grains of the wood. Mukta covered the smudge with her Windsor and Newton paints, mixing colours to match the sandalwood shade. The writing seemed a little sprawling but the spelling was corrected.

My own appearances at the Club were more humble. I would go to the tennis court in a hired tonga, driven by **Lingaiah.** He wore a red cotton square with white checks favoured then rural folk as a turban. He minded my telling him not to whip the pony to make it go fast; "I beat my children, I beat my horse. But I love them nevertheless." And we would jog slowly along, Lingaiah hunched over the reins in sulky resentment. Later I found he had a quirky humour, naming his horse 'Gita Bali' after a film heroine, and we parted on friendly terms.

I would go "decorously" dressed in handloom cotton

A sketch from memory of Lingaiah's Tonga and pony 'Gita Bali.'

sarees bought by my father, **M. Venkatesh**, in Mani Textiles in K.R. Circle. The saree had to be worn high above the ankles to facilitate "running." The pallu was tucked into the waist band. White cotton socks and tennis shoes completed the outfit. The socks quickly became brown from the dust of the court. The elasticised tops, so tight at first as to leave cicatrices around the ankles, loosened with every wash until they resembled overblown tulips.

A young woman shared the lesson with me. She was very pretty but wore a wig with a black waxy base to which untidy, coarse black hair was attached. Chemotherapy or its side effects was unknown then. Better known was that an attack of typhoid [known as "Thingal-Jwara" or month long fever] could cause one to lose hair. It made me sympathetic to her. We were partners on one side of the net, the Marker teaching us was on the other. She did better than me and after a while I gave up the effort. But I still retain a memory of the politeness in speech and behaviour of the ladies of those days; a life conservative and custom bound, but gracious and leisurely nevertheless.

Rajasthani women perform 'Sheetala Puja'

Mysuru, Apr. 5- All the ladies from Rajasthani community performed 'Sheetala Puja' at Bisilu Maramma Temple in Janatha Nagar here recently.

This is a special puja performed by Rajasthani community ladies, to make the Goddess cool. Basoda Puja is dedicated to Goddess Sheetala and celebrated on Krishna Paksha Ashtami after Holi.

Basoda is also known as Sheetala Ashtami. Usually it falls after eight days of Holi but many people observe it on first Monday or Thursday after Holi. Sheetala Ashtami is more popular in North Indian States like Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

According to Basoda customs, families do not light fire for cooking. Hence, most families cook one day before and consume stale food on Sheetala Ashtami Day.

It is believed that Goddess Sheetala controls smallpox, chickenpox, measles, etc. and people worship Her to ward off any outbreak of those diseases.

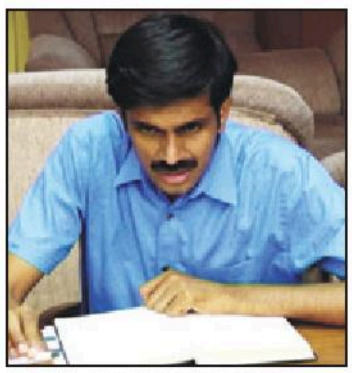
This Puja was performed specially by singing Goddess songs, performing Panchamruta abhishek. **—R. Narendar**

No business activities after 6 pm till Apr. 14

- Stringent action to be taken against violators, warns Police Chief
- Deputy Commissioner urges citizens to co-operate

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (SBD&KS)- As people are unnecessarily moving around on roads in the guise of providing help or seeking help and also not maintaining social distance during purchase of essential commodities, City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta has ordered closure of all business activities after 6 pm from today till Apr. 14 by enforcing Karnataka Police Act, 1963 Section 31 to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in city.

Dr. Chandragupta



Abhiram G. Sankar

As per the order, all businesses including sale of grocery, vegetables, fruits and other essential commodities should close at 6 pm everyday from Apr. 5 to 14. However, the order is not applicable to sale of milk, medicines, medical services, home delivery of food items, kitchen services and goods vehicles transporting essential commodities.

Warning that legal action would be initiated against violators, Dr. Chandragupta said that cases would be registered against shopkeepers who violate the orders and added that though Mysureans co-operated well during the 10-day lockdown, nearly 500 vehicles of those who were found moving around unnecessarily have been seized.

The City Top Cop has urged the residents not to call or send WhatsApp messages for movement passes but obtain the passes only if necessary and not misuse the passes.

Understand the seriousness and co-operate: DC

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abhiram G. Sankar, has urged the public to understand the seriousness of the situation and co-operate by staying indoors to prevent the spread of Coronavirus in the district.

In his Facebook message that was streamed live yesterday, the DC said that though the number of COVID-19 positive cases were increasing day-by-day, members of the public are found moving around freely in some localities and urged the public to act responsibly, take the situation seriously and stay indoors to help control the spread of the dreaded disease.

Lab upgradation

Stating not to have doubts about the testing capacity for COVID-19, DC Abhiram Sankar said that 100 self-powered testing kits have been received and added that two Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Testing Kits would be handed over by Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) today.

Pointing out that the laboratory would be upgraded, the DC said that testing of COVID-19 suspects would be faster at Mysuru, Mandya, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar districts.

Two more disinfectant spraying tunnels

The DC said that two more disinfectant spraying tunnels in the lines of the one set up at the vegetable market at Dasara Exhibition Grounds would be set up at K.R. Hospital and the vegetable market at Lalithadripura Grounds.

Public are urged to go through the tunnel compulsorily before entering K.R. Hospital and the vegetable markets.

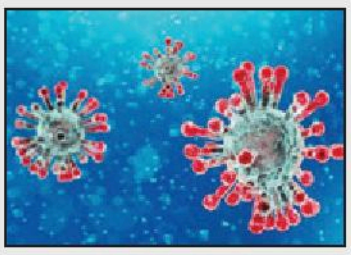
Stating that the District Administration cannot collect relief funds separately, the DC said that relief (money) should be given only to the Prime Minister or Chief Minister Relief Funds.

The DC has requested those providing groceries such as rice, wheat, cooking oil and other such items to contact Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and those providing face masks, sanitisers and other medical items to contact the District Health Officer (DHO) and hand over the relief items.

Advising the people not to crowd vehicles distributing groceries, the DC urged the residents to stay in their homes and the groceries including milk would be distributed at their doorstep.

Spike in COVID-19 cases; Total increases to 28 in Mysuru

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (BCT)- There has been a sudden spike in the number of COVID-19 positive cases in Mysuru with seven cases being reported in a single day yesterday. All the positive patients have been put under isolation in K.R. Hospital for observation and treatment.



As per the media bulletin released by Karnataka Health Department, the number of positive cases in Mysuru has touched 28 and seven cases have been reported within a span of 24 hours.

The latest update says, P134, a 38-year-old male has travel history of Delhi, P135, 19-year-old male and P136, 39-year-old male too has a travel history of Delhi. Detailed investigation are on with P137, a 39-year-old male and P139, a 40-year-old male while P138, a 54-year-old male has a travel history of Delhi. 34-year-old male P140 is the contact with P109.

Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar has stated in a media briefing that two of the positive cases (P139 and P140) are related to Jubilant Generics in Nanjangud and they are contacts of P52 and P78.

P134 to P138 are people who went to Delhi and came back in January. They have been in Mysuru till mid-March, and from Mar. 13 to Mar. 30, they have been in Mandya district. On Mar. 30, they were taken into quarantine and tested. They have tested positive. These five people did not participate in the Nizamuddin Markaz in New Delhi and all five are the residents of Delhi, and not Mysuru, the DC clarified.

While Bengaluru Urban reported 55 positives 9 discharged, 45 active cases and one deaths, Mysuru comes second in the State with 28 positive cases with all of them being treated as active cases.

Dakshina Kannada is in third position with 12 positive cases with all of them being treated as active cases. The total number of positive cases in Karnataka has touched 144 with 129 active cases.

Former Hunsur CMC Member arrested for organising prayer meet

Hunsur, Apr. 5- The Hunsur Police on Saturday arrested a former Hunsur City Municipal Council (CMC) Member for organising a religious prayer meet (Namaz) at his house in the town, in violation of the lockdown regulations.

Mohammad Mohidullah Shariff is the former CMC Member who was arrested and later released on Station Bail.

Acting on a tip off that two persons who had attended Nizamuddin Tablighi Jamaat meet at New Delhi last month had returned and were staying at the former CMC Member's residence in the town's Shabbir Nagar, Police team headed by Inspector K.C. Poovaiah, along with Tahsildar Basavaraj, went to Shariff's house for an enquiry, when they found a number of footwears outside the second floor of the house.

Upon suspicion, the team raided Shariff's house, when more than 10 persons were found attending a prayer meet in gross violation of lockdown regulations. However, all of them managed to escape after seeing the Police, it is learnt.

The Police, after seizing the carpet and mat allegedly used for Namaz, arrested the house owner Shariff and booked cases against nine others under Sections 188, 269, 270, 291 R/W 149 of IPC. However, Shariff was later released on Station Bail.

There is scientific reasoning behind PM's call for lighting lamps: MLA

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (PM&DM)- Maintaining that there is a scientific reason behind the Prime Minister's call for lighting of lamps tonight (Apr.5), K.R. MLA S.A. Ramdas claimed that the deadly Coronavirus will die due to the heat generated by the lighting of lamps.

He was speaking after distributing candles, earthen lamps (Diyas) and masks to members of the public at Dasara Exhibition Grounds and Lalitha Mahal Palace Grounds here yesterday.

Explaining the rationale behind PM Modi's call for lighting of lamps for 9 minutes at 9 pm tonight, Ramdas said that the call is also meant for uniting all the citizens of the country to fight the pandemic. Claiming that the idea behind the PM's call is that no virus should enter houses, Ramdas appealed the public to join hands in the fight against the virus and make the PM's call a tremendous success.

Corporators Chayadevi Naveen and Roopa Yogesh, leaders Prasanna, Vinay and others were present.

Feeding the hungry strays

Mysuru, Apr. 5 (PM&BNR)- Following the nationwide lockdown and closure of hotels and roadside eateries, stray animals are left starving. Noting this, various Associations and Organisations have been feeding the stray animals across the city every day.

City's Namma Mysore Foundation too launched a stay animal feeding programme.

Foundation Managing Trustee K. Dasharatha said, "Due to lockdown, many stray animals are starving and hence, we took up the task of feeding such animals. Public should also provide food to such animals near their houses."

Animal Husbandry Department's Veterinary Division Assistant Director Dr. S.C. Suresh said that the Government was taking measures to help shelterless people during the lockdown period but has not taken any steps towards animals which are also affected. "Hotels, chicken and mutton stalls are the major source of food for stray dogs and as they are shut due to nationwide lockdown, they have left animals starving. Animals to play a vital role in balancing the ecology and hence, feeding such stray animals is also important," he said and appreciated the NGOs and individuals who are taking care of such animals.

Namma Mysore Foundation will be feeding the stay animals and birds everyday till the lockdown is lifted at various points across the city including Karnataka Exhibition Authority premises, Manasagangothri, Nanjumalige and Chamundipuram.

Every day, around 15-kg chicken pulav, 400-kg green grass, 25-kg vegetables, two sacks of fodder, 25-kg banana, 25-kg multigrains, one box of biscuits will be fed across the city to stray dogs, cattle, monkeys and birds, said Foundation Trustee N. Mallesh.

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ad@starofmysore.com / ad@mysurumithra.com

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	2,809
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,705
Persons isolated in hospital	:	21
Persons completed 14-days isolation	:	1,081
Total samples tested	:	151
Samples found negative	:	130
Total positive cases	:	28
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

STATE & NATION

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	144
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	4
Total positive cases in India	:	3,500
Death toll so far in India	:	111

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

(Figures in Mysuru remain as yesterday as the media bulletin has not been released).

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number: 011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

STAR OF MYSORE

EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL SERVICES HELPLINE

Grocery Delivery

Loyal World
: 91699-94422
: 99802-00466

Mohan Bhandar
: 96062-33244
: 96062-33433
Ph: 0821-2442190

A 2 Z Supermarket
Ph: 0821-2547902
M: 94805-59879

More Mega Store N.S. Road
M: 81519-16000

More Supermarket Kalidasa Road
M: 97418-12959

Sri Vasavamba Stores,
M: 98447-95604
M: 98448-20833

Organic Health Mart
No:464, 1st floor, 6th main road, Vijaynagar 1st stage, Mysore.
M: 9945890309
8147293582
9902620309

Food Delivery

Hotel Siddharta, Nazarbad
M: 98802-32055

Indra's Sweet n Spice, Kalidasa Road
M: 99008-55447

Vishnu Bhavan, Shakthinagar
M: 90192-09020

Deliverfood2me.in, Yadavagiri
M: 96209-00000
Visit: deliverfood2me.in

Rasooi Magic, Kalidasa Road
Ph: 0821-4252228
M: 99688-15150

Crumbs (King's Kourt), JLB Road
M: 96202-02525

Om Shanthi (Hotel Siddharta), South Indian
Ph: 0821-2522888
M: 78990-88444

Gonguras Restaurant, MG Road
M: 99800-60129

Bombay Tiffanys Annexe, DD Urs Road
M: 98451-27511

Pharmacies

Raghulal & Co., Sayyaji Rao Road
Mob: 98451-07907

Sri Kumar Medicals, Kuvempunagar
M: 97418-80668

Kumar Medicals, Kuvempunagar
M: 94487-74372

Sri Murugan Medicals, Saraswathipuram
M: 99456-60084

Shreyas Medicals, Hebbal
M: 99006-29306

Adri Health Mart, Dattagalli
M: 99802-53762

Srinivasa Medicals, Shivarampet
M: 99458-04995

Venkateshwara Medicals, DD Urs Road
M: 98866-99552

Vasavi Medicals, 100 ft Road
M: 98451-14922

Aditya Medicals, Vijayanagar
M: 90088-03251

Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushda Kendra
26/3, Hebbal Main Road, next to HDFC Bank ATM, Lokanayaka Nagar, Metagalli, Mysuru.
M: 9343983533.

Hospitals

Apollo BGS Hospital, Kuvempunagar
Ph: 0821-2566666
0821-2568888

Columbia Asia Bengaluru-Mysuru Road, Mysuru
Ph : 0821-2555000

Narayana Multispeciality Hospital, Devanur Ring Road
M: 95380-52378

Jayadeva Hospital KRS Road, Kumbarakoppal, Mysuru
Ph : 0821-2336000
Ph : 0821-2421500

Clearmedi Radiant Hospital, Vijayanagar 3rd Stage
Ph: 0821-2336666

JSS Hospital, M.G. Road
M: 99804-43489

Brindavan Hospital, Jayalakshmipuram
Ph: 0821-4000782
0821-6626666

Suyog Hospital, Ramakrishna Nagar
Ph: 0821-2533600
M: 97395-55908

Ambulance: 108
B.G.S Apollo Hospital : 2568888
Chandrakala Hospital : 4288639
Gopala Gowda Hospital : 2445037
Holdsworth Memorial Hospital : 2420102
Kamakshi Hospital : 2545981

COVID-19 Helpline Numbers: 1077 or 0821-2423800

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